

**Case 3282*****Thecla azia* Hewitson, 1873 (Insecta, Lepidoptera): proposed conservation of the specific name**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application is to conserve, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, the specific name *Thecla azia* Hewitson, 1873 (currently *Ministrymon azia*) for a common and widespread New World species of lycaenid butterfly that is of scientific interest. The name is threatened by resurrection of a senior synonym, *T. guacanagari* Wallengren, 1860, which was used only once in 1969 and not again since then.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Lepidoptera; LYCAENIDAE; THECLINAE; *Ministrymon azia*; migration; legume feeder; hairstreak butterfly.

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1. Hewitson (1873, p. 144) gave the name *Thecla azia* to a common and widespread New World species of hairstreak butterfly (family LYCAENIDAE; subfamily THECLINAE). It occurs from southern Brazil, Paraguay, Argentina, and northern Chile to the United States, and was placed in its current genus (*Ministrymon* Clench, 1961) by Johnson & Miller (1991). This species is migratory (Beebe, 1951) and also appears to disperse passively using seasonal winds (Robbins & Small, 1981). Its larvae eat the blossom buds, flowers and leaves of Fabaceae (Boscoe, 1982; Cock, 1985; Harley et al., 1995). Most importantly, the name *T. azia* has been frequently used over the last century, including all major faunal books for the New World (e.g. Draudt, 1919-1921; Clench, 1961; Howe, 1975; Scott, 1986; Smith et al., 1994 and D'Abrera, 1995). Besides the citations already listed in this paragraph, a list of 50 other citations involving 65 authors is held by the Commission Secretariat; these include at least 25 works by at least ten authors in the last 50 years (see Article 23.9.1.2). Many more could easily have been added.

2. However, Article 23.9.2 cannot be used to 'automatically' reverse precedence as an earlier name *Thecla guacanagari* Wallengren, 1860 (p. 37) was noted as a senior subjective synonym of *T. azia* Hewitson, 1873 in a faunal list by Ebert (1969). It has not been listed or used since. Robbins & Lamas (2002) confirmed that these names refer to the same species.

3. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:  
(1) to use its plenary power to suppress the name *guacanagari* Wallengren, 1860, as published in the binomen *Thecla guacanagari*, for the purposes

of the Principle of Priority but not for those of the Principle of Homonymy;

- (2) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the name *azia* Hewitson, 1873, as published in the binomen *Thecla azia*;
- (3) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology the name *guacanagari* Wallengren, 1860, as published in the binomen *Thecla guacanagari* and as suppressed in (1) above.

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Comments on this case are invited for publication (subject to editing) in the *Bulletin*; they should be sent to the Executive Secretary, I.C.Z.N., c/o The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD, U.K. (e-mail: iczn@nhm.ac.uk).